

REMARKS

Applicant notes the renumbering of claims 22, 23 and 24.

Claim 6 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,850,891 to Walkup et al. ("Walkup"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 7 recite a socket body arranged to load more than one memory module. Claim 12 recites a through socket for connecting more than one memory module. Walkup only discloses a socket for a single memory module 42. Although Figs. 1, 2 and 4 show the socket and module in a broken form to save space, it is clear from the drawings and the specification that the socket can only load a single module. See, for example, col. 1, lines 28-30 of Walkup: "socket in which *the* module is easily insertable" (emphasis added).

The Examiner notes that Walkup discloses a plurality of memory components at col. 2, line 40, but these components are mounted on a single board 44 which forms a single module 42. Since Walkup only discloses a socket capable of accommodating a single module, claims 1, 7 and 12 are not anticipated by Walkup. Claims 2-5, 8-11 and 13-16 recite additional features not disclosed by Walkup.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 6 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walkup in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,788,510 to Walker ("Walker"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's analysis of claim 6 with respect to Walkup and Walker. Nonetheless, claim 6 is amended to clarify that the modules are connected in a daisy-chain configuration in which a contact on each of the first through N-1 modules are connected to a contact on the next-successive module, and a contact on the Nth module is connected to a contact on the first memory module. This is different from the daisy chain configuration disclosed in Walker in which contacts on the first and last modules are not connected. Walker neither discloses nor suggests an arrangement in which a contact on the Nth module is connected to a contact on the first memory module. Thus, the rejection of claim 6 is overcome.

Claim 18 recites a base socket and a turn around socket. Neither Walkup nor Walker disclose or suggest the combination of a base socket and a turn around socket, and therefore, claim 18 is allowable over these references. Claims 19-24 recite additional features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Walkup and Walker.

New Claims

New claims 25-31 are added. These claims recite additional features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art and are, therefore, allowable.

Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS

6. (Amended once) A through socket, comprising:
a socket body arranged to load N memory modules; and
N conductors arranged to connect contacts on the surfaces of the memory [module]
modules in a daisy-chain configuration in which a contact on each of the first through N-1
modules are connected to a contact on the next-successive module, and a contact on the Nth
module is connected to a contact on the first memory module.

Claims 25-31 are new